

Thomas Jefferson to John Davidson, March 30, 1806, from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited by Saul K. Padover.

Jefferson to Davidson

Washington 30th March '06

Sir,

The circumstance which has drawn attention to the reinclosure of the City Lots was this observation that great obstructions were made to the outlets of the City by extensive inclosures in the north Eastern quarter; which too are not employed in raising garden stuff or grass or any other article which might accommodate the City, but are worn down in Indian Corn and then turned out incapable of bringing any thing — therefore it was thought best that as fast as the occupiers voluntarily withdrew their inclosures that they should not be reestablished, as the open grounds employed as a common in grass for the support of the cattle of the poor who depend much on them for subsistence are of more value to this City than inclosed and worn down with Indian corn. Observing however that the grounds you wish to re-inclose between K street, Massachusetts Avenue, 11th & 14th streets will not stop any important outlet and desirous of yielding every indulgence to proprietors not inconsistent with the general good permission is given to reinclose those grounds — always subject however to have the streets opened when the convenience of the City shall require it—

Accept my salutations & assurances of esteem

Th: Jefferson

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MR SAML [JOHN] DAVIDSON

[*Letters of the Presidents of the U. S. to the Commissioners of Public Buildings and Grounds*, original in the Manuscripts Division, Library of Congress, photostat in the National Archives.]